

relatives. She spent a lifetime engaged in political consulting and nonprofit projects such as lupus research and the Jewish Home for the Aging.

Marlene worked tirelessly to improve California and serve those most in need. She was also well known and loved throughout L.A.'s Jewish community for her civic activism and support for Israel.

Marlene was renowned for mentoring an amazing number of our political leaders on how to serve constituents with honor and commitment. Up to the last week of her life, she threw herself into the cause of supporting candidates. She believed in the commandment of Tikkun Olam, that she must leave the world better than she found it. It is undeniable that she left those who knew her better off for having known her.●

#### REMEMBERING ANTONIO GONZALEZ

● Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I would like to include in the RECORD the following obituary for Mr. Antonio Gonzalez, written by his children.

The material follows:

Beloved Antonio Gonzalez made his transition the night of December 30, 2020. Born in Calera in the state of Zacatecas, Mexico on March 30, 1964, he was the eldest of four children born to Antonio Gonzalez and Antonia Del Villar. The Gonzalez family spent their early years living with Antonio's maternal grandparents in a small town in Calera. Antonio shared fond memories of times spent on his grandparent's abundant ranch. He described what seemed to him an endless landscape of rolling hills, trees, livestock and horses (his favorite).

Hard times fell on the young family around the time Antonio turned eight. A sudden regime change resulted in his dad losing his job, forcing them to set their sights "north" in search for work and a better life. Their trek north ended in what was (at the time) a small dusty town just south of the California border. It was there, in Tecate, BC where he and his three siblings, Antonio (Tony Chico), Margarita and Maria de la Luz were raised and attended school. But, with a lack of good paying jobs, times remained tough in Tecate. Antonio recalled working odd-end jobs throughout his childhood and adolescence; a shoe shiner, sweeper—anything to help ensure that there was food on the table.

As a young adult, Antonio set his sights on completing the journey north—to the U.S. In 1971, shortly after marrying Florentina "Nina" Herrera, he made his way to Los Angeles. They settled in the San Fernando Valley—a sleepy suburb of LA at the height of rock and roll, disco, and bell bottoms.

Antonio worked just about anywhere where hard work was needed—maintenance work at a convalescent hospital, landscaping, you name it. But his fate would change when he landed a job at a large construction company. I'm not sure what it was about "construction" that he loved. Perhaps it was the job stability or the early start to the day where he could greet the sunrise on his drive into downtown. Or maybe it was the art of building—the satisfaction of erecting a structure where only a plot of land existed—a tangible outcome only accomplished by hard work and sweat. Over the years, he had become somewhat of an infrastructure historian, recalling with such clarity the

buildings he helped build and rehabilitate in the San Fernando Valley, Downtown LA, Santa Monica, and Malibu.

He dedicated most of his life to erecting buildings and homes, whether for work or building homes for his family both in the San Fernando Valley and in Tecate, BC. Antonio built his family home, simple and unpretentious yet on a solid foundation with strong bones. In fact, as time would prove, there's nowhere else his family would prefer to be in an earthquake but under the protection of those strong beams hammered together with pride and affection. Even in his retirement years, Antonio never stopped building.

Antonio was a great provider for his family. Through his hard work and dedication, he showed his children that the true American dream could be achieved—of buying a home, raising a family and ensuring a better future for the next generation.

He is survived by his wife, "Nina", son David, daughter Maria Ines and son-in-law Jose, daughter Sandra and son-in-law James, son Cristian and grandchildren Javier, Sienna and Julian. Siblings Antonio, Margarita and Maria de la Luz and many loving cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father Antonio Gonzalez and mother, Antonia Gonzalez Del Villar.●

#### REMEMBERING JOE "PINOY" LOZANO

● Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the life of Mr. Joe Lozano.

Joe "Pinoy" Lozano was born on December 26, 1934, in Pacoima, CA, as one of 10 children. Joe had every job you can imagine. He shined shoes and worked in the fields as a young boy. He joined the U.S. Marine Corp in 1954 and served during the Korean war as an infantryman.

After the service, he married the love of his life, Virginia. They were married for 60 years and had 6 children, 21 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild.

Joe was a community-oriented person. After his family, his community came first. He painted over graffiti, he helped beautify the streets, and he even mowed the grass on the center divider of his street when the city was too busy to do it.

Joe worked as a prop maker for the studios for many years. He had tons of stories, and he loved his job. He retired, went back to work, and only stopped again to care for his wife when she became ill.

Since 2004, Joe worked with the annual San Fernando Valley Veterans Day Parade organizing committee so that Veterans could be honored on Veterans Day.

He will be missed by many.●

#### RECOGNIZING VERMONT MEALS ON WHEELS

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the extraordinary work of Vermont's Meals on Wheels Programs.

Each March, we celebrate March for Meals to draw attention to the incredible work of Meals on Wheel through-

out the country, including in my home State of Vermont. All across our State, hundreds of volunteers regularly deliver freshly cooked, nutritious meals to thousands of older people in their homes, many of whom otherwise might not have enough to eat. These volunteers play a critically important role in helping ensure that older Vermonters have access to adequate nutrition. In and of itself, that is no small matter.

In a typical year, Meals on Wheels volunteers do so much more than delivering meals. These volunteers provide critical social interaction for the people they visit, which goes a long way to combat the effects of isolation that many Vermonters face, especially in rural areas. Without this social interaction, seniors are more likely to have feelings of loneliness and depression, which puts them at higher risk for dementia, chronic disease, falls, and hospitalization. Their regular visits serve another purpose as well. The volunteers know each person they visit and recognize immediately if something does not seem right. It is no exaggeration to say that volunteers have literally saved Vermonters' lives by following up when no one answers the door, taking the time to discover that someone had fallen and been injured.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, volunteers—both new and existing—stepped up to deliver over 1 million meals to over 7,500 Vermonters. This represents a 30-percent increase in the number of meals and almost a 20-percent increase in the number of people receiving meals through this vital Federal program. At a time when so many Vermonters struggled with the dual hardship of loneliness and hunger cause by the COVID-19 pandemic, Meals on Wheels served as a critical lifeline.

In addition to the many Meals on Wheels volunteers throughout Vermont, I also want to recognize and thank the caring and dedicated professionals who run Vermont's Meals on Wheel Programs. From the chefs who prepare the nutritious meals with skill and care, to the program staff who ensure that everything runs smoothly, these Vermonters are the backbone of what makes Meals on Wheels the success that it is. In March, when so much of our State shut down due to the pandemic, these dedicated people immediately pivoted to expand Meals on Wheels and ensure that any older Vermonter who wanted a meal could get one. This was particularly important for all those who had previously relied on congregate meal programs, which were unsafe during the pandemic.

Together, every single Meals on Wheels volunteer and staff person forms an indispensable link in our social safety net and has my sincere appreciation for their remarkable work. As more and more Vermonters are now vaccinated and the State begins a careful reopening, following the science and ensuring the safety of all our people, I look forward to a day when I and